

Q. E. A. DH86s

The first DH86 was built in four months, was registered G-~~ACPL~~<sup>ACPL</sup> and first flown at Stag Lane on January 14 1934.

A total of 64 DH86s, including 86As and 86Bs were built before production ceased. The last DH86 to fly was G-ACZP which was issued with her C. of A. on May 11 1935 and being the 21st DH86 to be built. This aircraft after 24 years was damaged beyond repair at Madrid on September 21 1958.

Some details of the DH86:

Engines Gipsy 6 4/205 h.p.  
Length 46.1 ft  
Span 64.5 ft  
Wing area 641 square feet  
Total weight 10,250 lbs  
Wing loading 15.98 lbs/sq. ft  
Cruising speed 145 m.p.h.  
Original tankage 114 imperial gallons, increased for Australian requirements to 183 imperial gallons.

By May 1938 the five DH86s used by Q.E.A. on the Brisbane-Singapore route had flown 2½ million miles and completed every one of 525 scheduled flights, 90% of their terminal arrivals being within 60 minutes of time table.

In more detail the Q.E.A. DH86s are discussed below:

Registration Letters	Aircraft name	Constructor's number	C.of A. issued	Remarks
VH-USC	RMA Canberra	2307	13-9-34	Flown by Captain Brain from England to Australia, departed Croydon Sept 24 1934 arrived Brisbane Oct 13 1934. Passed to MacRobertson Miller 1939, impressed as A31-5, restored to Q.E.A., crashed at Darwin Oct 9 1944. At this stage VH-USC, in 10 years had flown 11,664 hours covering a mileage equal to a flight between Australia and England once a month during the whole period.
VH-USD	RMA Brisbane	2308	24-9-34	Shipped to Brisbane by sea. Sold to TATA Airlines Ltd 1940 as VT-AKZ. Impressed June 1940 as AX800.

VH-USE	RMA SYDNEY	2309	2-10-34	Shipped to Brisbane by sea. Crashed near Brisbane Feb.2 1942. (Capt Swaffield)
VH- <del>USF</del>	RMA Melbourne	2310	27-12-34	Used in England for tests after loss of VH-USG then delivered to Singapore by I.A.L.. Flown thence to Brisbane by Q.E.A.. Impressed as A31-6, restored as VH-USF to MacRobertson Miller, crashed at Geraldton June 23 1945. (Capt Branch)
VH-UUA	RMA Adelaide	2306	14-2-35	Initially I.A.L. G-ACWE Replacement for VH-USG lost near Longreach during I.A.L. delivery flight Nov 15 1934. Delivered to Singapore by I.A.L. thence flown to Brisbane on scheduled run by Brain and Stevens. Sold to TATA Airlines Ltd 1940 as VT-AMK, impressed July 1942 as HX789

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#### DH100 Vampire

First jet to operate from a carrier on December 3 1945

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#### DH88 Comet Racer

Five were built primarily for the London-Melbourne Centenary Air Race in 1934. First DH88 was flown on May 9 1934.

The DH88R:

Length 29 ft  
Span 44 ft  
Wing area 213 sq. ft  
Total weight 5,555 lbs  
Wing loading 26.05 lbs/sq. foot  
Speed 237 m.p.h. maximum  
Engines Gipsy 6R 2/230 h.p.  
Range over 3,000 miles

Winners of speed event in London-Melbourne air race were  
Charles W.A. Scott and Campbell Black in G-ACSS (Race No. 34) in